

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

3b. GSA Committee No.

1332

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

09/29/2017

6. Expected Renewal Date

09/29/2019

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 U.S.C. 542

13. Effective Date

11/23/1983

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date Report Title

09/01/2018

2018 Report of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 1 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

To assist the Committee with acquiring a better understanding of VA's benefits and services available for women Veterans, and to engage in transparent dialog with VA's Administrations and Staff Offices.

Start

End

05/08/2018 - 05/10/2018

To assist the Committee with acquiring a better understanding of how VA's benefits and services

available for women Veterans are administered in the field. Meetings enhance the Committee members' ability to assess how these programs and policies specifically impact women Veterans.

09/10/2018 - 09/12/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members

Current FY Next FY

\$14,250.00 \$30,250.00

18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff

\$186,320.00 \$186,320.00

18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members

\$37,018.00 \$60,000.00

18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$7,082.00	\$7,790.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$2,332.00	\$5,000.00
18d. Total	\$247,002.00	\$289,360.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.75	0.75

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

Through regular meetings, the Committee is briefed by VA Administrations and Staff Offices about their initiatives, especially those targeting women Veterans (e.g. potential increased risk of death by suicide, adverse outcomes related to opiate usage), and engages in open discussion with VA leadership and subject matter experts. The Committee also conducts annual site visits, to gain an understanding of how VA policy is implemented in the field. The meetings, and site visit--which includes a town hall meeting for stakeholders--are used as tools to monitor changes from both the Department's and consumers' perspectives. The Committee uses the information gathered from meetings to construct a Congressionally-mandated, biennial report to the Secretary of VA. This report includes the recommendations constructed by the Committee and supporting rationales, as well as VA's responses to those recommendations. The Committee submitted its biennial report due FY 18. The activities enabled the Committee to advise the Secretary on VA's priorities across the Administrations (VHA, VBA, NCA) and staff offices: providing greater choice for Veterans; modernizing VA's systems; focusing resources more efficiently; improving timeliness of services; and preventing suicide.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee is comprised of a diverse group of Veterans--women and men--representing several branches of the armed services, enlisted and officer ranks, various eras of service (e.g., Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn), various professional areas, and the women Veterans' community. All candidate nominations are reviewed for their military and civilian experience, Veterans status, Veteran advocacy involvement, and ability to contribute to the gender-specific health care and benefits needs of women Veterans. Consideration is also given the following to ensure balance: the ethnic and geographic diversity of the Veterans population, longevity of military service, significant deployment experience, ability to handle complex issues, experience running large organizations, and ability to contribute to the gender-specific health care and benefits needs of women Veterans. Membership of the Committee is reviewed, and appointments are made based on an individual's potential contributions to the women Veterans community and the representational needs of the Committee. Candidates meeting demographic needs of the

committee are recommended for appointment as Special Government Employees. Current membership includes representation by Veterans from the Air Force, Navy, Army and the National Guard. Members represent a variety of military career fields and possess extensive military experience, to include service in Vietnam, Persian Gulf War, and Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Committee is expected to meet at least twice per year--usually a regular meeting at VA Central Office in Washington, DC, and a site visit in the field (to include visits to a VA medical center that has a women's clinic and an active special emphasis program designed for women Veterans, a regional office and a cemetery). The meeting held in Washington, DC, is designed to brief Committee members on Department initiatives; to engage in transparent dialogue with key officials on issues currently concerning the women Veterans' community; and to provide a mechanism to formulate and finalize Committee recommendations. In FY 2018, the Committee held two meetings: a regular meeting on May 8-May 10, 2018 in Washington, DC, and a site visit on September 10-September 12, 2018 in Chicago, IL. Site visits usually include visits to VA medical centers, regional offices, Vet Centers, outpatient clinics, national cemeteries, and other related programs such as homeless services and transitional housing. Committee members maintain a strong liaison within the women Veterans' community, State Departments of Veterans Affairs, national Veterans service organizations, and other special interest groups concerned about Veterans issues. Members actively participate in meetings and forums that address women concerns. Additionally, members usually conduct town hall meetings with women Veterans who are consumers of VA services and other advocates interested in women Veterans issues. The Committee's meeting adds tremendous value to VA, as well as other stakeholders interested in women Veterans' issues. The briefings provide an opportunity for VA to enhance stakeholders' and the Committee members' understanding about its programs, policies and initiatives. This enhanced knowledge enables the Committee to consider how VA's programs and policies specifically impact women Veterans. Representatives from Veterans service organizations, interested members of the public and VA staff from various administrations attend the meeting for the educational value and to assess potential opportunities for future collaborations that would enhance outreach to women Veterans.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

This Committee is the only Committee within the Department that is comprised of individuals with the personal and historical understanding of the issues confronting women Veterans and the barriers they encounter in accessing services and benefits from

VA. It is a consumer-oriented Committee that is well-versed in women Veterans issues while, at the same time, is capable of developing recommendations that incorporate both the needs of the consumer and the needs of the Department.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Committee meetings are open to the public. However, Committee activities, such as tours in a medical environment where there could be patients interaction, were closed to the public to respect patient privacy. The site visit included several closed sessions, to protect patient privacy during tours of medical facilities, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6).

21. Remarks

The Advisory Committee on Women Veterans (Committee) is Congressionally mandated to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) on issues related to the Department's administration of benefits and services for women Veterans, with respect to health care, rehabilitation, compensation, and outreach.

Designated Federal Officer

Anna Crenshaw Acting Director, Center for Women Veterans

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bobb, Kailyn	02/26/2016	10/01/2020	Veterans Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Braun, Michelle	05/11/2011	09/30/2018	Advisor; Public Health Service	Ex Officio Member
Carson, Laurine	06/29/2018	10/02/2023	Assistant Director, Compensation Service	Ex Officio Member
Davis, Toya	08/09/2017	09/01/2021	Mil. Dir. DACOWITS	Ex Officio Member
Germano, Kate	12/14/2016	09/30/2018	Veterans Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Glowacki, Nancy	09/09/2013	09/30/2018	Ex-officio; Women Veteran Program Manager; Department of Labor	Ex Officio Member
Harris, Octavia	10/01/2014	09/30/2020	Veterans Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hayes, Patricia	10/01/2007	10/01/2018	Ex-officio; Chief Consultant; Women's Health Services	Ex Officio Member
Kirk (Brown), Lisa	12/14/2016	09/30/2018	Veterans Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McIntosh, Moses	12/01/2017	10/01/2019	Veterans Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McLaughlin, Shannon	10/01/2014	09/30/2019	Massachusetts National Guard	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mendoza, Yareli	12/01/2017	10/01/2019	Veterans Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Nuble, Lillie	10/01/2012	07/02/2018	Ex-officio; Director Newark Regional Office	Ex Officio Member
O'Brien, Karen	09/14/2016	09/30/2018	Veterans Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Richardson, Keronica	12/01/2017	10/01/2019	Assistant Director, Women and Minority Veterans	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Walden, Faith	10/01/2011	09/30/2018	Advisor; Department of Veterans Affairs/NCA	Ex Officio Member
West, Janet	02/08/2016	09/30/2020	U.S. Navy/Doctor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Wright, Wanda 12/01/2017 10/01/2019 Director, AZ Dept. Veterans Affairs

Yarbrough, Betty 12/14/2016 09/30/2018 Veterans Advocate

Special Government Employee
(SGE) Member

Special Government Employee
(SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 19

Narrative Description

The Committee advises the Secretary on issues related to the administration of VA benefits and services for women Veterans. It conducts at least one meeting at VA Central Office (VACO), where they receive briefings from senior VA officials, and subject matter experts in the Administrations and Staff Offices regarding initiatives for women Veterans, and openly discuss their concerns with VA representatives. Additionally, the Committee conducts an annual site visit to local VA facilities, which includes a town hall meeting with women Veterans who are consumers of VA services, and other stakeholders. In this way, the Committee monitors changes from both the Department and consumer perspectives. The Committee prepares a Congressionally-mandated biennial report, which includes recommendations and rationales that address issues impacting the women Veterans population. A comprehensive report is then provided to Congress, which encompasses the Committee's recommendations and rationales, and VA's responses to the recommendations.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

162

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2018.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

60%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

20%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Agency feedback is provided by written responses to Committee recommendations, through briefings and updates to the Committee, and by information mailed to the

members throughout the year.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A